

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

pro bono humani generis

1230 YORK AVENUE - NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021-6399

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 1, 1988

Edwin C. Whitehead
Whitehead Associates
15 Valley Drive
Greenwich, CT 06830

Dear Jack:

You asked me once to call on you when I had a special need.

Dr. Ernst Friedheim is a very special person who deserves your interest. He has, and has had, a distinguished career with many contributions to the treatment of parasitic diseases. Now, past 85 he continues active laboratory work, and does this with an unparalleled background of experience. Besides his continued effort in third world problems, he has turned his attention to two protozoan afflictions of importance in the U.S. -- pneumocystis, which is the principal cause of death among HIV infections, and acanthamoeba. A dear friend and colleague, Professor Tom Kaiser, just died of a pneumocystis pneumonia following chemical immunosuppressive treatment to help fend rejection of a kidney graft. Neither Bactrim nor pentamidine were effective -- the pneumocystis strains are becoming resistant -- so this has a grim poignancy to us here at this moment.

You know the ageism that prevails among the young turks in science; so you should be more surprised that Ernst has received funding from time to time than to the news that it is momentarily interrupted.

I am asking you to contribute \$150,000 to allow him to support his continued work for one more year. I did this last year from my meager unrestricted funds: and believe he was on the verge of resuscitation from the granting agencies. With the special AIDS-related initiatives coming along, I am optimistic that he can recover if given this respite.

Please do it.

With my best to Rosalind,

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg

PS: I'd be honored and pleased to join the Board of the Friends of NLM. It is of course indispensable; and Don Lindberg is an old friend and colleague (from the SUMEX-artificial intelligence project). I believe he is exerting great leadership.